

plumes are black throughout their length, and not only at their tips, as described by Vigors and figured by Fraser.

66. STERNA BERGII.

Sterna bergii, Licht. Verz. d. Doubl. Mus. Berl. p. 80.

[S. Leyte, ♂, October.]

67. DENDROCYGNA VAGANS (203).

[Amparo, ♂ ♀, July; S. Leyte, ♂, September.]

2. Reports on the Collections of Birds made during the Voyage of H.M.S. 'Challenger.'—No. VIII. On the Birds of the Sandwich Islands. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

[Received February 26, 1878.]

The 'Challenger' arrived in Hilo Bay, Owhyhee, on the 14th of August, 1875, and left on the 19th of the same month.

The skins of birds collected were 24 in number, belonging to 13 species. They were all obtained "within eight miles of the town."

The collection, although small, and containing nothing absolutely new except a single species of *Anas*, is of interest, as it enables us to record the actual island of the Sandwich group upon which the species contained in it were found, and as including an example of the little-known *Buteo solitarius* of Peale.

The best account of the avifauna of the Sandwich-Island group, which is still very imperfectly known to us, is that given by Dole in 1869¹. On this I have commented at some length in 'The Ibis' for 1871², and given my views on the subject pretty fully. Lately M. Oustalet has described a most remarkable new form³ from the same group; but I am not aware of any other more recent contributions to this subject⁴.

1. CHASIEMPIS SANDVICENSIS.

Sandwich Flycatcher, Lath. Syn. ii. p. 343, undè

Muscicapa sandvicensis, Gm. S. N. i. p. 945.

Chasiempis sandvicensis, Cab. Wieg. Arch. 1847, i. p. 208.

Cnipolegus, sp. 1238, Sel. Cat. A. B. p. 203; vide P. Z. S. 1873, p. 555.

No. 528. Hilo, Owhyhee. ♀. }
529. " " " " }

"Flycatcher: eyes black; stomachs contained insects."—*J. M.*

¹ "Synopsis of the Birds hitherto described from the Hawaiian Islands. By S. B. Dole," Proc. Boston Soc. N. H. xii. p. 294.

² "Remarks on the Avifauna of the Sandwich Islands. By P. L. Sclater," Ibis, 1871, p. 356.

³ *Loxioides bailloni*: vide Bull. Soc. Phil. de Paris, 7^{me} sér. t. i. p. 99.

⁴ Dr. Pucheran's somewhat peculiar views on the avifauna of the Sandwich Islands will be found explained in the Procès-Verbaux Soc. Phil. de Paris, 1858, p. 85.

2. PHÆORNIS OBSCURA.

Dusky Flycatcher, Lath. Syn. vol. ii. pt. i. p. 344, undè

Muscicapa obscura, Gm. S. N. i. p. 945.

Tamioptera obscura, Cassin, B. U.S. Expl. Exp. Atlas, pl. ix. fig. 3.

Phæornis obscura, ScL. Ibis, 1859, p. 327, et 1871, p. 360.

No. 534. Hilo, Owhyhee. ♂. }

535. " " ♀. }

536. " " " }

537. " " " }

"Eyes brown; bill and feet black."—*J. M.*

3. MOHOA NOBILIS.

Gracula nobilis, Merrem, Av. Descr. et Ic. p. 8, pl. ii.

Mohoa nobilis, Cass. Pr. Ac. Sc. Phil. vii. p. 440.

Yellow-tufted Bee-eater, Lath. Syn. i. p. 683, undè

Merops niger, Gm. S. N. i. p. 465.

No. 524. Male. Hilo.

"Eyes black; stomach contained fruit and insects."—*J. M.*

4. PSITTIROSTRA PSITTACEA.

Parrot-billed Grosbeak, Lath. Syn. ii. p. 108. pl. 42, undè

Loxia psittacea, Gm. S. N. i. p. 844.

Psittirostra psittacea, Sw. Class. B. ii. p. 295.

538. Male. Hilo.

545. Male. Hilo.

"Eyes red; stomach contained fruit."—*J. M.*

As I have already stated (Ibis, 1871, p. 360), this bird has, in my opinion, no relationship to the Fringillidæ, but is merely an exaggerated form of the same type as *Hemignathus* and its allied genera.

5. DREPANIS COCCINEA (Merrem).

Mellisuga coccinea, Merrem, Av. Descr. et Ic. p. 14, pl. iv. (1786).

Drepanis coccinea, Cassin, Zool. U.S. Expl. Exp. p. 177.

521. Female adult. }

522. Young female. } Hilo.

523. " " }

"Eyes red; bill and legs orange; stomach contained insects and seeds."—*J. M.*

6. DREPANIS SANGUINEA (Gm.).

Certhia sanguinea, Gm. S. N. i. p. 479.

Drepanis sanguinea, Bp. Consp. i. p. 404.

530. Female. Hilo.

7. *DREPANIS FLAVA*, Bloxham.

Drepanis flava, Bloxh. Voy. Blonde, p. 249 ; Dole, Proc. Boston Soc. N. H. xii. p. 298.

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 525. Male. | } Hilo, Owhyhee. |
| 526. Male. | |
| 527. Female. | |
| 533. Female. | |

“Eyes black ; stomachs had seeds and insects.”—*J. M.*

The females are much less yellowish than the males, especially below.

8. *MUNIA NISORIA* (Temm.) ; Walden, Trans. Zool. Soc. viii. p. 73.

543. Male. “Sparrow, introduced ; native who shot it said he had never seen one before.”—*J. M.*

An imperfect skin of this species (or of the nearly allied *M. punctularia*), no doubt introduced.

Prof. Baird a short time ago sent me a skin of a young or female of another Eastern Finch from the Sandwich Islands (probably *Munia malabarica*) for determination ; also without doubt introduced.

9. *OTUS BRACHYOTUS* (Forster).

Strix sandwichensis, Bloxam, Voy. Blonde, p. 250.

Asio galapagoensis, Cassin, Mamm. et Orn. U.S. Expl. Exp. p. 207.

Asio accipitrinus, Sharpe, Cat. B. ii. p. 234.

544. “Male ; eyes yellow ; brought on board alive.”—*J. M.*

10. *BUTEO SOLITARIUS*.

Buteo solitarius, Peale, Zool. U.S. Expl. Exp. Birds, p. 62 (1848).

Pandion solitarius, Cassin, Mamm. & Orn. U.S. Expl. Exp. p. 97, Atlas, pl. iv.

Poliaëtus solitarius, Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. 452.

No. 540. Female.

“Eyes brown ; cere and legs yellow ; bill black.”—*J. M.*

Mr. J. H. Gurney has kindly examined this interesting bird for me (of which two specimens were obtained, but one of them was subsequently lost), and supplied me with the following notes :—

“The female Buzzard brought from Owhyhee by the ‘Challenger’ Expedition (No. 540 in that collection) appears to be of the same species, though in a different stage of plumage, as the previously unique specimen from the same island, which is preserved in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, and which was described by Peale, in the first edition of the ‘Zoology of the United-States Exploring Expedition,’ published in 1848, under the name of *Buteo solitarius*.”

“In the subsequent edition of this work, published in 1858, and edited by the late Mr. Cassin, the generic name of *Buteo*, as applied to this species, was dropped, and that of *Pandion* substituted, with the following remark :—‘This bird is strictly a member of a subgenus

of the generic group *Pandion* designated *Polioaëtus* by Dr. Kaup.' (*Vide op. cit.* p. 98.)

"Mr. Ridgway, on the contrary, after an examination of the type specimen, wrote to me that he considered it 'a Buteonine form differing from the true *Buteones* only in the system of coloration, which reminds us somewhat of *Milvago chimachima*.'

"In the specimen brought home in the 'Challenger' there is much less resemblance to the coloration of *M. chimachima*, and nothing, in my opinion, to justify the removal of this species from the genus *Buteo*.

"The following is a comparison of the measurements of the Challenger example with those of the type specimen as given by Mr. Cassin in the work to which I have referred:—

| | Type specimen (sex unknown). inches. | 'Challenger' specimen (female). inches. |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Total length of skin | 17 (above) | 17·7 |
| Wing | 12 | 12 |
| Tail | 7·5 | 7·2 |
| Bill from gape | 1·5 | 1·5 |
| Tarsus | 2·75 | 2·8 |
| Hind toe and claw | 1·75 | 2·2 |
| Middle toe s. u. | | 1·7 |
| Claw of ditto | | 0·8 |
| Culmen (exclusive of cere) | | 1·1 |
| Cere | | 0·4 |

"Mr. Cassin describes the type specimen as having 'the third, fourth, and fifth quills longest and nearly equal,' which agrees with the 'Challenger' specimen, as does his description under the head of 'form' generally; but I think that, in speaking of the toes as having 'their under surfaces strongly corrugated or pustulated, claws very large, long, and curved,' he uses rather stronger language than is strictly applicable to the 'Challenger' specimen, though in this the under surface of the feet is certainly somewhat corrugated and roughened, and the claws are slightly longer than in *Buteo vulgaris* or in *Buteo desertorum*.

"As regards the difference of coloration in the two specimens, Mr. Cassin describes the type as having the 'head and entire underparts and upper tail-coverts yellowish white, all the feathers being pure white at their bases and widely terminated with pale yellowish, more distinct on the breast and tibiæ.'

"In the 'Challenger' bird the upper part of the head is dark wood-brown like the mantle, except that some of the feathers, especially on the crown and forehead, are partially edged with yellowish white; on the sides of the head these white edgings are more conspicuous; the throat is white; the breast, abdomen, under tail-coverts, flanks, and wing-linings are white, slightly tinged with buff, especially on the tibiæ, and more or less mingled with wood-brown throughout, except on the lower abdomen and tibiæ, the brown pre-

dominating over the buffy-white on the flanks, and almost entirely covering the sides of the breast.

“Mr. Cassin further describes the type specimen as having the ‘occiput and neck behind with oblong longitudinal spots of umber-brown, which is the colour also of all the upper surface of the body, wings, and tail; shafts of quills reddish chestnut on their upper surface, white beneath; inner webs of quills widely edged with white; tail beneath silky-white tinged with yellowish.’

“The ‘Challenger’ specimen agrees with this portion of Mr. Cassin’s description, with the following exceptions, viz.:—the occiput and hinder part of the neck are white-coloured and of the same hue as the mantle; the upper surface of the shafts of the quills is brown, but without any ‘reddish-chestnut’ tint; the upper surface of the tail is brown, with transverse bars of a darker brown; on the middle pair of rectrices these are eleven in number, the lowest bar being subterminal; on all the rectrices the edge of the outer web and the tip are of a darker brown than the remainder of the feather, but beyond the dark tip there is at the extreme end of the feather a small central spot of white, which is more conspicuous on a new rectrix only partially grown than in the older feathers, from some of which it has been worn off by use; the inner webs of the lateral rectrices are also more or less mottled with white towards the edge. The dark transverse bars are indistinctly apparent on the under surface of the tail.

“The figure of the type specimen (U.S. Exploring Expedition, pl. iv.) agrees with the description given by Mr. Cassin, and also shows a larger bare space behind the eye than exists in the ‘Challenger’ specimen; but, notwithstanding this difference and those of coloration to which I have alluded, I think that the coincidence of size and form marks the two specimens as belonging to the same species, and that the example obtained by the ‘Challenger’ Expedition must be considered as a specimen of *Buteo solitarius* of Peale.”

11. *ANAS WYVILLIANA*, sp. nov.

“*Anas boschas*,” Dole, Pr. Boston S. N. H. xii. p. 305; Finsch et Hartl. Orn. C. P. p. xxxix. (?)

541. Male. } Eyes brown; legs and feet orange.
542. Male. }

Supra nigra, plumis fusco limbatis; pileo nigro, fusco minute punctato; subtus pallide fusca, in gutture et pectore magis rufescens, in ventre magis ochracea, plumis nigro punctatis et maculatis; alis extus brunnescenti-cinereis; speculo amplo purpureo, margine supra et infra albo inde nigro ornato; axillaribus albis; rostro superiore nigro, inferiore carneo; pedibus aurantiacis. Long. tota 15·0, alæ 9·3, caudæ 3·0, rostri a rictu 2·0, ejusd. lat. sub naribus 0·7, tarsi 1·5.

Hab. Inss. Sandwich, maris Pacifici.

This Duck belongs to the section of true *Anas* which embraces *A. obscura* of North America, *A. superciliosa* of Australia, and other species, and in which both sexes somewhat resemble the female of *Anas boschas*. The head is dark, finely pointed with brown, and

bears no trace of a superciliary stripe; the speculum is shining purple with a black border above and below; beyond the black border below the coverts terminate in a broad margin of pure white; above the upper black border, which is formed by the ends of the small coverts, there is a narrow ashy-white margin.

The description is taken from specimen 541; the other (542) is apparently a young bird and is rather smaller in its dimensions.

12. *FULICA ALAI*, Peale.

Fulica alai, Peale, Zool. U.S. Expl. Exp. Birds, p. 224; Cassin, Mamm. & Orn. U.S. Expl. p. 306, Atlas, pl. xxxvi.

531. Male. "Eyes red; bill flesh-coloured with a yellowish tinge; feet and legs pale slate-colour."—*J. M.*

13. *TOTANUS INCANUS* (Gm.).

532. Female. Eyes hazel; bill brown; legs yellow.

3. On a Small Collection of Birds from the Samoan Islands and the Island of Rotumah, Central Pacific. By W. A. FORBES, F.Z.S.

[Received March 1, 1878.]

Mr. Sclater has lately put into my hands for determination a small collection of birds from the above localities, made by the Rev. G. Brown, C.M.Z.S., of the Wesleyan Mission. It consists of 47 skins referable to 19 species. Of these all but 4 skins, of two species, are from the Samoan Islands of Upolu and Savaii, and are well known already as inhabitants of these islands. They require no further notice here, except one.

PACHYCEPHALA ICTEROIDES, Peale; Finsch & Hartl. Faun. Centr.-Polyn. p. 76.

Three examples of this species, in different stages of plumage, though none are quite adult, traces of the rufous plumage of immaturity remaining to a greater or less extent. All are marked "from Upolu;" and the native name given is "Vasavasa." Mr. Layard (P. Z. S. 1876, p. 494) doubts the occurrence of this species in Samoa, and refers the bird from those islands to *P. flavifrons* (Peale), which, as Dr. Finsch has shown (J. f. O. 1872, p. 39), is the adult male of *P. icteroides*.

The island of Rotumah is, as far as I am aware, entirely unknown ornithologically; and the three skins in this collection from that locality are, I believe, the first that have ever been received from the island. It is a small island, 4 or 5 miles in extent from north to south, and was discovered by Captain Edwards in his search for the 'Bounty' in 1791. It lies nearly midway between the Fijis and the Ellice group, in about long. 177° E., lat. 12½° S. Some account of it will